

Art Unit: 2800

CLMPTO

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1. (original) A method for real time determination of emulsion in a formation fluid comprising: (a) positioning an optical probe, having a probe surface which can measure changes in total internal light reflectance, such that the probe surface is in contact with a formation fluid, wherein the probe and its surface are composed of material which can withstand an extended period in contact with the formation fluid; (b) measuring the total internal light reflectance at the probe surface; and (c) determining in real time therefrom whether an emulsion is present or the degree of emulsification at such surface.

Cancelled claim 2

3. (original) The method of Claim 2 wherein the attenuated total reflectance probe includes a photometer that measures light in a wavelength range of from about 400 to about 1500 nm.

4. (original) The method of Claim 3 wherein the photometer measures light in a wavelength range of from about 640 to about 680 nm.

Cancelled claim 5

6. (original) A method for controlling emulsion formation in a formation fluid comprising: (1) placing an optical probe, having a probe surface which can measure changes in total internal light reflectance thereof, in contact with a formation fluid; (2) measuring the changes in total internal light reflectance at the probe surface; (3) determining in real time the presence of emulsion in the formation fluid as a function of the changes in total internal light reflectance; (4) comparing the determination of (3) to a predetermined maximum acceptable emulsion presence; and (5) effecting a change in the rate of addition, if any, to the formation fluid of an additive effective to reduce the emulsion presence; wherein: (a) the optical probe is composed of a material which can withstand an extended period of contact with the environment to which it is exposed; and (b) the rate of addition, if any, to the formation fluid of a demulsification additive

Cancelled claim 7-9

10. (original) The method of Claim 7 wherein the attenuated total reflectance probe includes a photometer capable of measuring light in a wavelength range of from about 400 to about 1500 nm.

11. (original) The method of Claim 10 wherein the photometer is capable of measuring light in a wavelength range of from about 640 to about 680 nm.

12. (original) The method of Claim 6 wherein the demulsification additive is an alkyl phenol resin.

13. (original) A system for controlling emulsion formation in a formation fluid comprising a fluid flow path for flowing formation fluid recovered from a subsurface formation; an optical probe, having a probe surface which can measure changes in light reflectance at the probe surface, in contact with the formation fluid; a processor associated with the optical probe enabling collection of data therefrom, such data corresponding to the presence of emulsion or degree of emulsification in the formation fluid; and a controller associated with the processor enabling translation of data therefrom to initiate action to modify the presence of emulsion or degree of emulsification.

14. (original) The system of Claim 13 further comprising an automated probe surface cleaning device capable of extracting, cleaning, calibrating and inserting or reinserting the probe surface.

15. (currently amended) The system of Claim 13 14 wherein the optical probe is an attenuated total reflectance probe.

Cancelled claims 16-18

19. (original) The system of Claim 17 wherein the optical probes are attenuated total reflectance probes.

20. (original) The system of Claim 12 wherein the processor and controller incorporated into a single unit.